

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CITY COUNCIL INTENT TO CREATE A SOUTH BILLINGS BOULEVARD URBAN RENEWAL DISTRICT WITH TAX INCREMENT AUTHORITY; DECLARING THE EXISTENCE OF BLIGHT WITHIN THE SOUTH BILLINGS BOULEVARD URBAN RENEWAL AREA; SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING DATE; AND REQUIRING PUBLICATION AND MAILING OF THE NOTICE OF HEARING

WHEREAS, under the provisions of Montana Code Annotated, Title 7, Chapter 15, Parts 42 and 43, as amended (the "Act"), the City of Billings, Montana (the "City") is authorized, among other things, to identify and declare an area as containing blight with the intention of eliminating it through urban renewal; and

WHEREAS, the City is authorized by the Act to create urban renewal areas with tax increment provisions by adopting an urban renewal plan by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, an urban renewal plan has been prepared for the proposed South Billings Boulevard Urban Renewal District; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to conduct a public hearing on the draft urban renewal plan for the proposed South Billings Boulevard Urban Renewal District to determine if it is desirable to create the district.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Billings, Montana, declares and resolves as follows:

1. Description of Proposed District The area being considered for inclusion in the proposed urban renewal area is described as:

Starting at the intersection of State Avenue and Van Buren Street, extending south down the centerline of Van Buren Street to the intersection of Van Buren Street and Roosevelt Avenue, extending east down the centerline of Roosevelt Avenue to the intersection of Roosevelt Avenue and Jackson Street, extending south down the centerline of Jackson Street to the intersection of Jackson Street and Madison Avenue, extending east down the centerline of Madison Avenue to the intersection of Madison Avenue and Washington Street, extending south down the centerline of Washington Street to Orrel Drive, extending south along the existing city limit boundary to the intersection of Jackson Street and King Avenue East, extending east along the centerline of King Avenue East to the intersection of King Avenue East and Washington Street, extending south along the centerline of Washington Street to South Frontage Road (including Interstate 90 corridor), extending west along the south edge of South Frontage Road to the intersection of South Frontage and Orchard Lane, extending south along the centerline of Orchard Lane to the existing city limit boundary, extending west along the existing city limit boundary to the intersection of South 12th Street West and Nova Lane, extending south along the centerline of South 12th Street West to intersection of South 12th Street West and the southern boundary of Tract 1, Certificate of Survey 2834, then continuing west along the southern boundaries of Lot 6, Block 4 of Weil Subdivision and Lot 5C of Block 4 of Weil Subdivision amended and Lot 4 of Block 4 of Weil Subdivision and Lot 3 of Block 4 of Weil Subdivision and Lot 2 of Block 4 of Weil Subdivision and Lot 1 of Block 4 of Weil Subdivision and its intersection with the centerline of Mullowney Lane, extending north along the centerline of Mullowney Lane to the intersection of Mullowney Lane and Underpass Avenue, extending northeast along the centerline of Underpass Avenue to the intersection of Underpass Avenue and State Avenue, extending east along the centerline of State Avenue to the ending point at the intersection of State Avenue and Van Buren Street. Excluding all nonincorporated land within the boundary.

2. Determination of blight. A requirement of Montana Annotated Code 2005 is to justify an urban renewal plan through the determination of *blight*. Blight is defined as an area that is conducive to ill health, transmission of disease, infant mortality, juvenile delinquency, and crime; substantially impairs or arrests the sound growth of the city or its environs; retards the provision of housing accommodation; or constitutes an economic or social liability or is detrimental or constitutes a menace to the public health, safety, welfare, and morals in its present condition and use, by reason of:

- the substantial physical dilapidation; deterioration; defective construction, material, and arrangement; or age obsolescence of buildings or improvements, whether residential or nonresidential;
- inadequate provision for ventilation, light, proper sanitary facilities, or open spaces as determined by competent appraisers on the basis of an examination of the building standards of the municipality;
- inappropriate or mixed uses of land or buildings;
- defective or inadequate street layout;
- faulty lot layout in relation to size, adequacy, accessibility, or usefulness;
- unsanitary or unsafe conditions;
- deterioration of site;
- improper subdivision or obsolete platting;
- the existence of conditions that endanger life or property by fire or other causes;

The area in the proposed district contains a great deal of blight. Within the district there is substantial structural deterioration, long-term land vacancy, and significant infrastructure needs. Several of the commercial buildings in the district are vacant or deteriorated and need demolition. Many of the sidewalks are cracked or nonexistent, alleys are deteriorated, and, in general, much of the area is below city standards. In contrast to the above, there are certain properties within the district in good repair but included in the district to allow for a contiguous block of land within the district; and because pockets of revitalization cannot be sustained if areas of neglect and blight surround them. Over time, without continued managed urban renewal, even these success stories will once again decline in taxable value. Portions of the district fall into the blighted, neglected and under-utilized categories. Maps 4 and 5 in the urban renewal plan show the current infrastructure conditions within the district.

3. Intent to Create an Urban Renewal Area with Tax Increment Authority. Pursuant to the Act and considering the blighted conditions cited above, the City Council declares its intention to create a South Billings Boulevard Urban Renewal Area and that public improvements that will stimulate private investment in the area may be financed in part through tax increment generated from the District, subject to a public hearing and adoption of the draft urban renewal plan by ordinance.

4. Public Hearing. A public hearing is hereby called and shall be held on November 26, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 220 N. 27th Street, on whether to adopt the draft urban renewal plan for the proposed South Billings Boulevard Urban Renewal Area.

5. Publication and Mailing of Notice. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of the public hearing to be published in the *Billings Times* at least once a week for two consecutive weeks prior to the date set for the hearing and to mail notice of such hearing not less than 10 days prior to the date of the hearing to the persons whose names appear on the county treasurer's tax roll as the owners, reputed owners, or purchasers under contract for the deed of the Property, at the addresses shown on the tax roll.

APPROVED AND PASSED by the City Council of the City of Billings this 13th day of November, 2007.



CITY OF BILLINGS:

BY: _____

Ron Tussing, Mayor

ATTEST:

BY: Cari Martin
Cari Martin, City Clerk